

REMARKS

Amendments to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 22-31 are made herein merely to correct minor grammatical and typographical errors and to maintain consistent terminology throughout the respective claim sets. Additionally, new claims 32-46 are added which depend from independent claims 29-31 and include features that are similar to the features of dependent claims 24-28. In this regard, Applicants believe that no new matter has been added. Claims 1-46 are now pending in the present application.

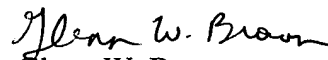
The outstanding Office Action rejected claims 1-31 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,574,465. In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c). By filing the terminal disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that all double-patenting rejections have been rendered moot and that claims 1-31 are in condition for allowance. Newly added claims 32-46 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims 29-31.

It should be noted that Applicants submit the terminal disclaimer solely to advance prosecution, without conceding that the double patenting rejection is properly based. In filing the terminal disclaimer, Applicants rely upon the ruling of the Federal Circuit that the filing of such a terminal disclaimer does not act as an admission, acquiescence, or estoppel on the merits of the obviousness issue. *Quad Environmental Tech v. Union Sanitary Dist.*, 946 F.2d 870, 874-875 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

CONCLUSION

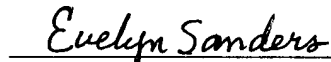
Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


Glenn W. Brown
Reg. No. 51,310

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 4/23/04.



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